(b) The interest paid on borrowings was Rs. 1,689.32 crore during the year, 2003-04.

LPG godowns in residential areas

758. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRASEKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that LPG godowns have come up in residential colonies like West Enclave, Pitampura, Delhi recently;

(b) whether several accidents occurred in the past on account of blast in godowns causing great damage in different residential colonies; and

(c) the action proposed to be taken to shift such godowns to open areas?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) No LPG godowns are located in West Enclave, Pitampura, Delhi. Delhi Development Authority (DDA) has allotted sites for development of 3 LPG godowns for the distributors of Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL) in Sub-zone H-4, Pitampura, Delhi. These godowns will be commissioned by IOCL after taking approval of statutory and local authorities and in conformity with the rules laid down by the Department of Explosives.

(b) and (c) Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) have not reported any accident in the past on account of blast in LPG godowns causing damage to residential colonies in Delhi.

Closure of Adulteration Prevention Cell

†759. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have closed down the Petrol-Diesel Adulteration Prevention Cell;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any proposal is under consideration to check adulteration in petroleum products; and

(d) if so. the details thereof?

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) and (b) A one Member Committee comprising of Shri M.S. Srinivasan, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas was appointed by the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas to conduct a review of the working of the Anti-Adulteration Cell (AAC). The Committee recommended that AAC with its present structure and functions cannot play a meaningful role in the efforts to curb the menace of adulteration. Based on the report of the Committee, Government has decided to wind up Anti-Adulteration Cell by 31st July, 2004.

(c) and (d) Government is committed to supplying clean and unadulterated fuel to customers. In order to reduce, minimize and eventually eliminate adulteration, the following important steps have been taken:-

(i) Government have issued Control Orders under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955 namely Naphtha Control Order, 2000, Solvent Control Order, 2000 and SKO Control Order, 1993 to prevent the misuse of these products for adulteration of auto fuels. MS/HSD Control Order, 1998 also provides for prevention of use of petroleum products other than MS/HSD as auto fuel. These Orders provide powers of search and seizure to the State Governments and Oil Marketing Companies to check adulteration. State Governments have been advised to take strict action under these Control Orders against persons indulging in adulteration.

(ii) Oil Marketing Companies undertake regular and surprise inspections of Retail Outlets and also take action under Marketing Discipline Guidelines and Dealership Agreements against those indulging in adulteration and malpractices.

(iii) Marketing Discipline Guidelines have been made more stringent to invoke the penalty of termination of dealership in cases of adulteration being established.

(iv) Oil Marketing Companies have also introduced new tamper proof tank-truck locking systems to prevent *en route* adulteration by transporters.

(v) Trials for introduction of Marker System.

(vi) Keeping in view the misuse/diversion for adulteration, the import of SKO by private parties has been canalized through Public

Sector Oil Marketing Companies. Measures to check adulteration are kept under continuous review of the Government.

(vii) Institutional arrangements for replacing AAC are under review in the Ministry.

Availability of natural gas in Tripura

760. SHRI SHANKAR ROY CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are any plans for extraction and utilization of reserves of natural gas in Tripura;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) to (c) The gas reserves of Tripura are utilized by way of gas sales to consumers like the North East Electric Power Company (NEEPCO) and Department of Power, Government of Tripura for generating power for domestic and industrial consumer through GAIL. At present, about 1.47 Million Standard Cubic Meters Per Day (MMSCMD) of gas has been contracted for by different consumers through GAIL. A further 2 MMSCMD of gas has been allocated to NEEPCO for power generation.

At present, the Tripura Asset of ONGC is at the exploration stage. As and when consumers enter into contracts, the fields will be developed further.

Strike by workers of petroleum companies

761. SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the employees of the Oil and Natural Gas Corporation, Indian Oil Corporation, Bharat Petroleum Corporation and All India Petroleum Workers Federation had gone on strike on the 1st July, 2004 against the decision of Government for privatization of Amguri Oil Field in Assam;

(b) if so, the details in this regard;

(c) the loss suffered by Government due to this strike; and